Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 11 as follows:

A deployment system for illumination devices, including: a holding mechanism for engaging at least one illumination device; and a deploying mechanism for causing the at least one illumination device to exit the system. The holding mechanism could be a mechanical coupling, a magnetic coupling, or a chemical adhesive. The deploying mechanism is a means of moving or allowing the movement of the illumination device with respect to the deployment system. For example, a gravity-fed door or gate release mechanism, a corkscrew mechanism, or an explosive or chemical reaction for launching the devices may be used. In the preferred embodiment, the deploying mechanism is at least one solenoid, where the at least one solenoid extends to cause the illumination device to exit the system. The system allows a person to deploy illumination devices without being exposed to dangerous conditions. For example, the system can be mounted internally or externally to a law enforcement, road crew, or utility company vehicle. [[.]] The user may then deploy the illumination devices to mark the road without being subjected to the dangers of oncoming traffic. Multiple systems may be mounted internally or externally to the vehicle. Similarly, the system could be mounted internally or externally to an aircraft or watercraft. Using non-incendiary flares in a deployment system reduces the fire hazard to the vehicle.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 10 as follows:

For example, in the preferred embodiment, the system is mounted in a vehicle's trunk. A person or an automated system, using an interface inside the vehicle, commands the solenoids 112 to extend, pushing the illumination devices 300 out of the vehicle and onto a road. The person or system can control when each of the illumination devices 300 is deployed. Additional

controls can be used to enhance the usability of the illumination devices 300, for example, by allowing the person or automated system to selectively deploy only fully charged illumination devices.[[,.]]

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 17 as follows:

Alternatively, the deployment system can also be mounted outside of the vehicle, such as to the bumper or to the rear quarter panel. The deployment system can also be a free standing unit. Various interfaces may be used to control the deployment. For example, deployment can be controlled through an interface inside the vehicle or may be remotely controlled. Multiple deployment systems may be installed internally or externally to a vehicle. The multiple systems can be controlled with one user interface or one automatic controller.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 18 as follows:

Figure 6 illustrates a first preferred embodiment of power management electronics for the illumination device utilized in the deployment system in accordance with the present invention. The electronics comprises an oscillator 601 that provides a waveform to the LED drivers 602, which in turn provides the outputs 603 to the light-emitting devices 118. The electronics are powered by a voltage source.[[.]] The contacts 610a-610b can also be used to turn the device ~~100, 500~~ 300 on and off.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 17 as follows:

The illumination device is further described in co-pending U.S. patent application, titled "Ruggedized Illuminating, marking, or Signaling Device and System", serial no. 10/712,431,

filed on November 12, 2003, and assigned to the assignee of the present application, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. ~~Applicant hereby incorporates this patent application in its entirely by reference.~~

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 21 as follows:

As with the device 300, power management can also occur at the charging or holding mechanism 114. Figure 8 illustrates a preferred embodiment of power management electronics for the charging or holding mechanism of the deployment system in accordance with the present invention. The electronics comprises a microprocessor 801 that controls delivery of power to and from the energy source 312. In addition, the electronics comprises a voltage modulator 802, current sensors 803, and over-voltage protection 804. The voltage modulator 802 allows the charger to transmit information to the device 300 being charged. The information is encoded onto the delivered power by adding a voltage-modulated component to the delivered power. The current sensors 803 monitor the current delivered to the device 300. The device 300 can modulate the incoming current used to encode data useful to the charging system, including identification and logged information, such as motion disturbances, etc. The current sensors 803 are also used to determine if the charging circuit is outside the normal limits of use, and if so, the microprocessor 801 may protect the energy source 312 from damage. For example, the microprocessor 801 may cut the power being delivered to energy source 312.[[.]] This fail-safe mechanism is particularly important when high energy density batteries are used.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 13 as follows:

An improved deployment system for illumination devices has been disclosed. The system comprises a holding or charging mechanism for engaging at least one illumination device,

and a deploying mechanism for causing the at least one illumination device to exit the system. The at least one illumination device includes: a shell comprising a plurality of sides, wherein the at least one illumination device can be positioned upon a surface or attached or suspended at any of the plurality of sides; and at least one light-emitting device within the shell, wherein when the at least one illumination device is positioned upon a surface or attached or suspended at any of the plurality of sides of the shell, light from the at least one light-emitting device emits through each of the plurality of sides of the shell. The system allows a user to deploy illumination devices without being exposed to dangerous conditions.[[.]] For example, the system can be mounted internally or externally to a law enforcement, road crew, or utility company vehicle. The user may then deploy the illumination devices to mark the road without being subjected to the dangers of oncoming traffic. Similarly, the system could be mounted internally or externally to an aircraft or watercraft.